

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 80

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas for over two decades, the Government of Uganda has been engaged in an armed conflict with the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) that has resulted in up to 200,000 deaths from violence and disease and the displacement of more than 1,600,000 civilians from eastern and northern Uganda;

Whereas former United Nations Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Jan Egeland called the crisis in northern Uganda “the biggest forgotten, neglected humanitarian emergency in the world today”;

Whereas Joseph Kony, the leader of the LRA, and several of his associates have been indicted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes and crimes against humanity, including rape, murder, enslavement, sexual enslavement, and the forced recruitment of an estimated 66,000 children;

Whereas the LRA is a severe and repeat violator of human rights and has continued to attack civilians and humanitarian aid workers despite a succession of ceasefire agreements;

Whereas the Secretary of State has labeled the LRA “vicious and cult-like” and designates it as a terrorist organization under the Immigration and Nationality Act;

Whereas the 2006 Department of State report on the human rights record of the Government of Uganda found that “security forces committed unlawful killings. . . and were responsible for deaths as a result of torture” along with other “serious problems”, including repression of political opposition, official impunity, and violence against women and children;

Whereas in the 2004 Northern Uganda Crisis Response Act (Public Law 108–283; 118 Stat. 912), Congress declared its support for a peaceful resolution of the conflict in northern and eastern Uganda and called for the United States and the international community to assist in rehabilitation, reconstruction, and demobilization efforts;

Whereas the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement, which was mediated by the Government of Southern Sudan and signed by representatives of the Government of Uganda and the LRA on August 20, 2006, and extended on November 1, 2006, requires both parties to cease all hostile military and media offensives and asks the Sudan People's Liberation Army to facilitate the safe assembly of LRA fighters in designated areas for the duration of the peace talks;

Whereas the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement expired on February 28, 2007, without ever having been fully implemented, and though the parties resumed peace talks on April 26, 2007, and signed a preliminary agreement on May 2, 2007, they have not yet arrived at a sustainable negotiated settlement and observers remain concerned that hostilities between rebel and government forces could resume;

Whereas a return to civil war would yield disastrous results for the people of northern Uganda and for regional stability, while peace in Uganda will bolster the fragile Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan and de-escalate tensions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and

Whereas continuing violence and instability obstruct the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the people of northern Uganda and impede national and regional trade, development and democratization efforts, and counter-terrorism initiatives: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
- 2 *concurring), That Congress—*

1 (1) disapproves of the Lord's Resistance Army
2 (LRA) leadership's inconsistent commitment to re-
3 solving the conflict in Uganda peacefully;

4 (2) urges the LRA and the Government of
5 Uganda to engage in good-faith negotiations to pur-
6 sue a political solution to this conflict;

7 (3) encourages all parties in the region to im-
8 mediately cease human rights violations and address,
9 within the context of a broader national reconcili-
10 ation process in Uganda, issues of accountability
11 and impunity for those crimes against humanity al-
12 ready committed;

13 (4) urges leaders on both sides of the conflict
14 in Uganda to renounce any intentions and halt any
15 preparations to resume violence and to ensure that
16 this message is clearly conveyed to armed elements
17 under their control; and

18 (5) calls on the Secretary of State, the Admin-
19 istrator of the United States Agency for Inter-
20 national Development, and the heads of other simi-
21 lar governmental agencies and nongovernmental or-
22 ganizations within the international community to
23 continue to augment efforts to alleviate the humani-
24 tarian crisis in northern Uganda and to support a

- 1 peaceful resolution to this crisis by publicly and
- 2 forcefully reiterating the preceding demands.

Passed the House of Representatives June 18, 2007.

Attest:

Clerk.

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Calling on the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) to recommit to a political solution to the conflict in northern Uganda by engaging in good-faith negotiations, and urging immediate and substantial support for the ongoing peace process from the United States and the international community.